

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 DRC-01 IO-14 /204 W
----- 121290

P R 111315Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9540

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT POUCH

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS KUWAIT 1845

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ENRG, KU

SUBJ: PARTICIPATION VOTE IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

REF: KUWAIT 1821

1. PARTICIPATION BILL CAME TO VOTE IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
SATURDAY, MAY 11, BUT DID NOT GARNER SUFFICIENT VOTES FOR
PASSAGE. VOTE WAS 25 IN FAVOR AND ONLY 1 OPPOSED; VOTE WAS
BY HAND AND NOT BY NAME. UNDER RULES OF KUWAIT NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY FOR ANY VOTE TO BE EFFECTIVE THERE MUST BE A TOTAL
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OF 32 VOTES NOT COUNTING ABSTENTIONS; THAT IS, SIMPLE

MAJORITY OF ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP INCLUDING 12 GOK MINISTERS IS NEEDED FOR A VOTE TO BE EFFECTIVE. ABOUT 40 MEMBERS WERE PRESENT MAY 11, BUT ENOUGH ABSTAINED TO PREVENT PASSAGE. SOME GOK MINISTERS AND PRIME MINISTER WERE ABSENT BECAUSE THEY WERE AT AIRPORT MEETING PDY PRIME MINISTER WHO ARRIVED FOR OFFICIAL VISIT. PARTICIPATION BILL WILL BE VOTED ON AGAIN AT NEXT SESSION TUESDAY, MAY 14.

2. COMMENT: SIGNS POINT TO PASSAGE NEXT TUESDAY IF GOK CAN MAKE SURE ENOUGH SUPPORTERS ARE PRESENT. MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT TODAY VOTED FOR GOK BILL AND ALSO VOTED TO REJECT RECOMMENDATIONS OF FINANCE AND ECONOMICS COMMITTEE WHICH CALLED FOR ADDITIONAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH GULF AND BP. ALSO INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT ASSEMBLY FORMALLY VOTED TO CLOSE DEBATE ON PARTICIPATION BILL. ONLY DEPUTY WHO VOTED AGAINST PARTICIPATION BILL MAY 11 WAS ABDUL AZIZ MASAEED WHO ONE OF SPONSORS NATIONALIZATION BILL. ENOUGH DOUBT REMAINS AS TO OUTCOME THAT WE EXPECT INTENSE LOBBYING BY BOTH SIDES BETWEEN NOW AND NEXT TUESDAY.
STOLTZFUS

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